<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented distribution request management method, comprising:

setting a maximum number of distributable requests arbitrarily for requests from ~~one communication network~~ <u>a mobile communication network performing wireless communication with mobile terminal devices</u> to one or plural content providing servers provided on another communication network, <u>taking into account an amount of data that is able to be distributed by the mobile communication network,</u> said requests being made for distribution of signals including data of contents; and

sending said signal distribution requests to said content providing servers as long as a number of said requests is not larger than said maximum number<u>,</u>

<u>wherein a reserved number is set arbitrarily to be not larger than said maximum number, and a space for requests for distribution of signals including data of each of one or plural specific contents is held to correspond to said reserved number, and</u>

<u>wherein an upper limit reserved number not smaller than said reserved number is set arbitrarily to be not larger than said maximum number for each of said specific contents, and requests for distribution of signals including data of said specific contents, the number of which requests is larger than said reserved number and not larger than said upper limit reserved number, are sent to said content providing servers as long as the number of said</u>

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signal distribution requests is within a range of a number obtained by subtracting said

reserved numbers assigned for said specific contents from said maximum number,

said method further comprising receiving data showing a bit rate of the content included

in a response to the distribution request and preventing distribution of the signals including

data of the content when the data showing the bit rate is out of an arbitrarily defined range.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended)   A distribution request management method according to Claim

[[3]] 1, wherein for contents for which said upper limit reserved number is set at 0, said signal

distribution requests are not sent to said content providing servers.

5. (currently amended)   A distribution request management method according to Claim

[[2]] 1, wherein, when it is concluded that reservation start conditions are satisfied for

requests for distribution of signals including data of one of said specific contents, a free space

is assigned to said requests so as to hold a space corresponding to said set reserved number

until said assigned free space reaches said reserved number as long as said assigned free

space is within a range of a number obtained by subtracting said reserved numbers assigned

for said specific contents from said maximum number.

6. (currently amended)   A distribution request management method according to Claim [[2]] 1, wherein:

when it is concluded that reservation termination conditions are satisfied for requests for distribution of signals including data of one of said specific contents,

said held space corresponding to said reserved number is released.

7. (currently amended)   A computer-implemented distribution request management method, wherein:

when a request management means for managing requests which are made from ~~one communication network~~ a mobile communication network performing wireless communication with mobile terminal devices to a content providing server provided on another communication network and for distribution of signals including data of contents in a streaming format concludes that a signal including data of a specific one of said contents requested by said signal distribution requests is a signal out of an arbitrarily defined bandwidth range, taking into account an amount of data that is able to be distributed by the mobile communication network, said request management means prevents distribution of said signal including data of said specific one of said contents.

8. (canceled)

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9. (currently amended) A distribution request management apparatus comprising a processor and a memory and being provided on a communication network between ~~one communication network~~ a mobile communication network performing wireless communication with mobile terminal devices and another communication network, wherein requests for distribution of signals including data of contents are sent from said ~~one communication network~~ mobile communication network performing wireless communication with mobile terminal devices to a content providing server provided on said another communication network when the processor determines that the number of said requests for distribution of signals is not larger than a maximum number of distributable requests set arbitrarily, taking into account an amount of data that is able to be distributed by the mobile communication network,

wherein a space for requests for distribution of signals including data of each of one or plural specific contents is held to correspond to a reserved number set arbitrarily to be not larger than said maximum number,

wherein when it is concluded that the number of requests for distribution of signals including data of each of said specific contents is larger than said reserved number and not larger than an upper limit reserved number set arbitrarily within a range not smaller than said reserved number, said requests for distribution of signals are sent to said content providing server as long as the number of said requests is within a range of a number obtained by subtracting said reserved numbers assigned for said specific contents from said maximum number,

and wherein data is received showing a bit rate of the content included in a response to the distribution request and distribution of the signals including data of the content is prevented when the data showing the bit rate is out of an arbitrarily defined range.

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10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended)　　A distribution request management apparatus according to Claim [[11]] 9, wherein when it is concluded that said upper limit reserved number for a specific one of said contents is set at 0, said requests for signal distribution including data of said specific one of said contents are not sent.

13. (currently amended)　　A distribution request management apparatus according to Claim [[10]] 9, wherein when it is concluded that reservation start conditions are satisfied for requests for distribution of signals including data of one of said specific contents, a free space is assigned to said requests so as to secure a space corresponding to said set reserved number until said assigned free space reaches said reserved number as long as said assigned free space is within a range of a number obtained by subtracting said reserved numbers assigned for said specific contents from said maximum number.

14. (currently amended)　　A distribution request management apparatus according to Claim [[10]] 9, wherein when it is concluded that reservation termination conditions are satisfied for requests for distribution of signals including data of one of said specific contents, said held space corresponding to said reserved number is released.

15. (currently amended)　　　　A distribution request management apparatus comprising a processor and a memory and being provided on a communication network between ~~one communication network~~ a mobile communication network performing wireless communication with mobile terminal devices and another communication network, in which:

　　when said processor concludes that a signal including data of contents in a streaming format and requested by a distribution request from a processing apparatus on said ~~one communication network~~ mobile communication network performing wireless communication with mobile terminal devices is a signal out of an arbitrarily defined bandwidth range, taking into account an amount of data that is able to be distributed by the mobile communication network, said signal including data of said contents is not distributed from a content distribution apparatus on said another communication network to said ~~one communication network~~ mobile communication network performing wireless communication with mobile terminal devices.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended)　　　　A non-transitory tangible computer-readable medium storing a program which, when executed by a computer, performs a distribution request management method, the method comprising:

　　determining whether a number of signals transmitted from ~~one communication network~~ a mobile communication network performing wireless communication with mobile terminal devices and including instructions of requests to distribute signals including data of contents is a number that is not larger than a maximum number of distributable signals set arbitrarily, or not, taking into account an amount of data that is able to be distributed by the mobile

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communication network; and

sending said signals transmitted including said instructions of requests to a content providing server provided on another communication network when it is concluded that said number of said signals transmitted is not larger than said maximum number of distributable signals,

wherein the method further comprises:

determining whether said distribution request instructions included in the signals transmitted are instructions of requests to distribute signals including data of a specific one of said contents or not;

determining whether the number of said signals transmitted is not larger than a reserved number set arbitrarily for said specific one of said contents when it is concluded that said distribution request instructions included in said signals transmitted are instructions of requests to distribute signals including data of said specific one of said contents;

sending said signals including said request instructions to said content providing server provided on said another communication network when it is concluded that the number of said signals transmitted is not larger than said reserved number;

wherein the method further comprises:

determining whether the number of said signals transmitted is a number within a range not larger than an upper limit reserved number set to be not smaller than said reserved number, or not, when it is concluded that the number of said signals transmitted is not a number within a range not larger than said reserved number;

determining whether the number of said signals transmitted is not larger than a

remainingnumber obtained by subtracting reserved numbers assigned to specific ones of said

contents from said maximum number of distributable signals, or not, when it is concluded

that the number of said signals transmitted is not larger than said upper limit reserved

number; and

sending said signals transmitted including said request instructions to said content

providing server provided on said another communication network when it is concluded that

the number of said signals transmitted is not larger than said remaining number,

wherein data is received showing a bit rate of the content included in a response to the

distribution request and distribution of the signals including data of the content is prevented

when the data showing the bit rate is out of an arbitrarily defined range.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended)   A non-transitory tangible computer-readable medium storing a

program of a distribution request management method according to Claim [[19]] 17, wherein

the method further comprises:

preventing said signals transmitted including said request instructions from being sent to

said content providing server provided on said another communication network when it is

concluded that said upper limit reserved number is set at 0 for said signals transmitted

including said instructions of requests to distribute signals including data of said specific one

of said contents.

21. (currently amended)   A <u>non-transitory tangible</u> computer-readable medium storing a program of a distribution request management method according to Claim [[18]] <u>17</u>, wherein said method further comprises:

if it is concluded that reservation start conditions are satisfied for requests for distribution of signals including data of a specific one of said contents,

sending said signals transmitted including said request instructions to said content providing server until the number of said signals transmitted reaches said set reserved number only when it is concluded that said instructions are instructions of requests for distribution of signals including data of said specific one of said contents.

22. (currently amended)   A <u>non-transitory tangible</u> computer-readable medium storing a program of a distribution request management method according to Claim [[18]] <u>17</u>, wherein said method further comprises:

if it is concluded that reservation termination conditions are satisfied for requests for distribution of signals including data of a specific one of said contents,

preventing said determining of whether said instructions are instructions of requests for distribution of signals including data of said specific one of said contents.

23. (currently amended)   A <u>non-transitory tangible</u> computer-readable medium storing a program which, when executed by a computer, performs a distribution request management method, the method comprising:

when it is concluded that a signal including data of a specific one of contents in a streaming format and requested by a distribution request from ~~one communication network~~ <u>a</u> <u>mobile communication network performing wireless communication with mobile terminal</u>

devices to a content providing server provided on another communication network is a signal out of an arbitrarily defined bandwidth range, taking into account an amount of data that is able to be distributed by the mobile communication network preventing signal distribution including data of said specific one of contents.

24. (canceled)